

Dear Vermont Veteran:

When your country called, you answered her call. Some of you put your lives on the line in distant foreign lands, or on the treacherous seas, or in the skies. Some of you were wounded in body and some in spirit. But whether your service was in wartime or in peace, at home or abroad, your honorable and faithful service requires that the United States government treat you with all the fidelity and respect you have earned. Unfortunately, all too often the needs of America's veterans have not been adequately addressed.

I believe it is essential that veterans across the state come together to discuss some of the most important issues facing them. **I want to take this opportunity, therefore, to invite you to our second conference on veteran's issues which will be held on Saturday, May 24th at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m.** I am proud that this conference is being held in conjunction with a number of veterans' service organizations in Vermont and the V.A. in White River Junction.


The conference will focus on veterans' health care needs, with a special emphasis on Gulf War Syndrome. Our speakers will address the changes that are taking place in the V.A. health care system, and how they will affect you. We will also plow into the controversies regarding the Gulf War Syndrome, and whether the government is doing an adequate job in protecting the health of the men and women who fought there.

As this brochure explains, there will be workshops on a wide variety of areas where you will be able to get answers to some of your pressing concerns.

I also wanted to mention that former Vermont Adjutant General Don Edwards is now on my staff, and will be available to assist you with any needs that you might have.

I look forward to seeing you at this very exciting conference.

Sincerely,


Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

Representative

BERNIE SANDERS

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House of Representatives
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The Vermont Conference on

VETERANS *health*



SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1997
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
9:30 am Registration

★
sponsored by
CONGRESSMAN
BERNIE SANDERS

in conjunction with:
American Legion, Department of Vermont

Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Medical & Regional
Office Center, White River Junction

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Gould/Holton Memorial Chapter No. 614

Northeast POW/MIA Network

Vermont Military Beneficiaries Association

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Department of Vermont

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

★ **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** ★
Dr. DENIS J. FITZGERALD, Director,
V.A. New England Healthcare

Schedule



0930-1000	Registration (Judd Hall)
1000-1030	Opening Plenary Session (Judd Hall) Presentation of Colors Opening Remarks
1030-1215	Plenary Session (Judd Hall) Has the Government Responded Effectively to Gulf War Syndrome? Robert Newman, Senior Staff, U.S. House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, and Panel Question and Answer Period
1215-1330	Lunch Break
1330-1430	Workshops (1st Session)
1445-1545	Plenary Session (Judd Hall) Where is VA Health Care Headed in the 21st Century? Denis J. FitzGerald, MD Director, VA New England Healthcare (VISN I) & Steve A. Robertson, Legislative Director, American Legion
1600-1700	Workshops (2nd Session)
1715-1730	Closing Plenary Session (Judd Hall)

WORKSHOPS

- 1) A DIALOGUE WITH YOUR V.A.
A chance to make suggestions to the top officials at the White River V.A., and to ask questions and get answers. Led by Gary De Gasta, Director; Terry A. Berube, Assistant Director; and Robert E. Smith, MD, Chief of Staff.
- 2) HEALTH CARE AND THE OLDER VETERAN
As veterans age they have more special needs: long-term medical care, nursing home care, living wills and shared medical decision making. What special programs are available for older vets? Led by Sarah Goodlin, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics & Extended Care, White River V.A..
- 3) HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS FOR THE FEMALE VETERAN (Session 1 only)
Are the unique needs of female veterans being adequately addressed by the V.A.? What can be done to make the system more responsive to their needs? Led by Alice Raatjes, Associate Director, Center for Women Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC; and Mary Ballard, Women Veterans Coordinator, White River V.A.

- 4) HEALTH CARE AND THE HOMELESS VETERAN (Session 2 only)
Workers with the homeless estimate that 25% or more of the population they serve are veterans. Helping the homeless vet and current initiatives are the focus of this workshop. Led by Dan Moriarty, Chief of Social Work Service, White River V.A.
- 5) AGENT ORANGE AND VETERANS' HEALTH (Session 1 only)
The use of herbicides in Vietnam and the detrimental health effects including birth defects and cancer is a continuing problem for veterans. This workshop will include general discussion of effects and treatment. Led by Daniel Duffy, PA, White River V.A.
- 6) POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)
This workshop will offer general information about PTSD and the treatment options available to veterans and family members in the V.A. system. Led by Paula Schnurr, Ph.D., Assistant Director, National Center for PTSD; and James J. Dooley, MS, Appletree Bay V.A. Outreach Center.
- 7) PERSIAN GULF ILLNESS: HELP FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Recent revelations by the C.I.A. and Department of Defense verify that chemical weapons contaminated the Gulf War environment. This workshop will include possible causes and treatments for illnesses among veterans and their families. A chance to register with the PGW registry will be provided. Led by Christopher D. Nice, MD White River V.A.; and SFC Darlene Bailey, Gulf War veteran.
- 8) THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION APPEAL PROCESS
The V.A. appeals process often frustrates both veterans and V.A. specialists. Changes to be implemented in the near future should make the process friendlier, simpler, and more timely. Led by Lynn Mouvery, Chief, Veterans Service Center, White River V.A.
- 9) WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRICARE
An explanation of TriCare, including the three options: Prime, Extra, and Standard (formerly CHAMPUS). What is known about the future status of TriCare in Vermont? What about the mail-order pharmacy program? Led by Capt. Bruce Catanzaro, Director of Managed Care, & James Littlejohn, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, 66th Medical Group, Hanscom AFB.
- 10) THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE FOR MILITARY RETIREES AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY
As military bases close, it is harder for military retirees, their families, and active duty personnel, to get medical care. What does the future hold? Led by John W. Morrison, Associate Legislative Counsel, National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS).

Registration Form

Please clip this panel and mail the completed form to:
Rep. Bernie Sanders
1 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401

☐ YES, I will be attending the VERMONT CONFERENCE ON VETERANS ISSUES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Workshops will be offered at 1330 and again at 1600.
PLEASE SIGN UP FOR NO MORE THAN TWO WORKSHOPS. Put a check mark by those workshops you wish to attend.

- ☐ 1 A Dialogue with Your Veterans Administration
- ☐ 2 Healthcare and the Older Veteran
- ☐ 3 Healthcare and Benefits for the Female Veteran (1st Session)
- ☐ 4 Healthcare and the Homeless Veteran (2nd Session)
- ☐ 5 Agent Orange (1st Session)
- ☐ 6 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- ☐ 7 Persian Gulf Illness : Help for Veterans and Their Families
- ☐ 8 The Veterans Administration Appeals Process
- ☐ 9 What you need to know about Tricare
- ☐ 10 The Future of Healthcare for Military Retirees and Military Personnel

Directions to Vermont Technical College:
Exit from I-89 at the Randolph Center exit and turn east (up the hill) on to Route 12A to Randolph Center (less than 1 mile). Go straight through the intersection in Randolph Center and enter the VTC Campus. Handicapped Parking: turn right at the intersection in Randolph Center, then take the 2nd left.